

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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## The Passing Show.

The master of the job is the master of the situation.

An old party ballot is a ticket to a banquet at the poor house.

Lift up your eyes and see the folly of your rulers, and lift up your voice and condemn it.

Depression and unrest are world-wide. The two old parties blame each other, but the real cause is capitalism, which both support.

A bill has been introduced in the British House of Commons to restrict the sale and exportation of worn-out horses. The loafers of Britain object to the old horses being used as food by the "foreigner" while their own victims are starving.

A New York Society gorger says we should eat whale meat for the poor and so reduce the high cost of living. Better eage some of the rich criminals.

Joe Cook and Andy Fisher are seemingly getting ready for another hunt after votes. The usual bait will be used—high wages and short hours, grilled chicken and roast turkey promises.

At every election the old parties are going to do something for the workers, and every year the number of unemployed and hungry workers increases while the political prophets formulate schemes to introduce more immigrants. The old parties don't know what should be done, but if they did know the bosses who pay the campaign expenses wouldn't let them do it. They draw the salaries, but the bosses frame the policy by which the workers are stung every time.

The N.S.W. Labor Party won a "glorious victory" at the recent elections when the Holman Government was returned to power with a substantial majority behind it. So far the fruits have been: increased tramfares and increased immigration, and the growls of laborites are as angry now as their cheers were enthusiastic a few weeks ago.

"Reading the 'International Socialist' is like attending a meeting of scientists where everybody has his or her say about whatever is most interesting, and where matters are probed to the roots with perfect precision. The worker who doesn't get the paper is missing a treat."  
—"Sub Scriber." Writing the paper is not so pleasant when we reflect that it doesn't reach a tenth of those it ought to reach, and that many of its readers don't seem to care whether it sinks or swims. Socialists, like other men, may be classed as those who have sincerity and those who have not. It is up to every sincere Socialist to help the paper in every way possible just now. Its fate hangs on sincerity.

And the Socialists answered and said: "We know the way."

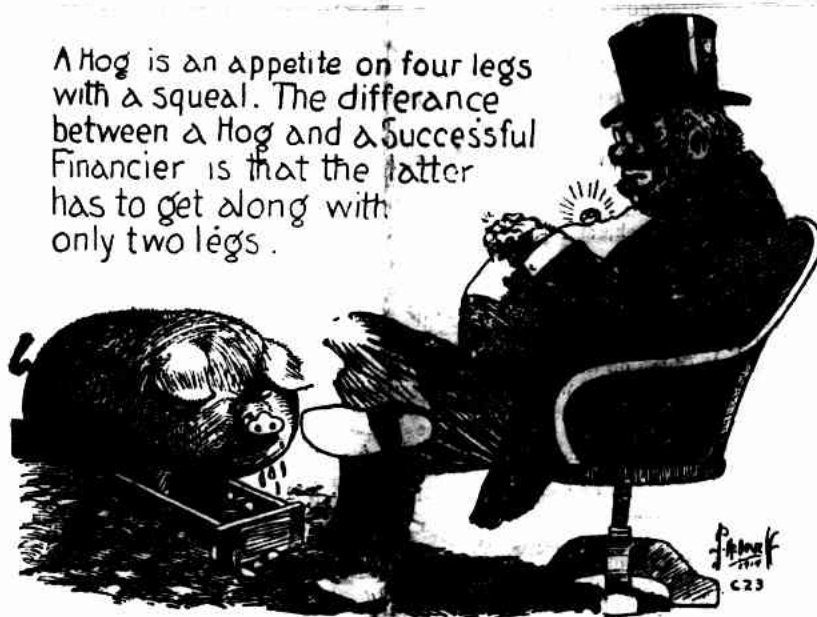
And the people said: "That cannot be, for this thing hath been from the beginning, and ever shall be. Our fathers found no way of deliverance though they sought it in sorrow and in tears; and how shall we do more than they?"

A system of society that starves millions of people in the midst of plenty is wrong, and no fine phrases and elaborate defences can make it right.

The New York State Labor Bulletin estimates the number of unemployed in N.Y. State alone at half a million. More than half the number are in N.Y. City. The failure of capitalism is an awful fact in America.

Senator Fletcher, in a recent address in the Senate, declared that the farmers

A Hog is an appetite on four legs with a squeal. The difference between a Hog and a Successful Financier is that the latter has to get along with only two legs.



—"The National Ripper."

in America were in debt six billion dollars, two billions of this farm mortgages. He said they were paying from six to twenty per cent. interest on their debt. And the farmers as a class are always ready and willing to arm and defend the system.

At the Sydney Water Police Court on 29th March, 188 conscripts were prosecuted under the Act which is so popular with labor leaders of the J. C. Watson and Billy Hughes type. They were bullied and fined by the magistrat who displayed the usual contempt for the sons of the working-class.

Police are actively engaged in suppressing unemployed meetings in Canada, and are arresting Socialist speakers who expose their immigration fraud. Meanwhile the capitalist Government is conducting a vigorous immigration campaign, and is introducing wage-slaves from Europe in thousands.

The British Parliament passed a bill to flog those engaged in the white slave traffic. Concerning this bill Bernard Shaw says: "Do not deceive yourself. Most of those who are living on the profits of prostitution will not be flogged; on the contrary, they are already among the most indignant advocates of flogging. They are ladies and gentlemen, clergy, men, bishops, judges, members of Parliament, highly-connected peers and peeresses, and pillars of solid middle-class Puritanism."

The new Mayor of Wollongong, N.S.W., seems to be, like his predecessor, a sabbatarian. The last mayor distinguished himself by prosecuting Socialists who spoke in the streets, and lost his seat at the last elections. His successor is travelling along similar lines by tilting against Sunday excursion trains to the mountains and the Illawarra district. He says that "the well-being of the community would be menaced by such excursions." Further, "The standard of morals of both sexes and the ideals of womanhood had not been raised by Sunday all-day surf-bathing, and it would accentuate the danger to budding manhood and womanhood to bring an irresponsible class which is simply down for the day." It is like the impudence of the greasy-mowsterish alderman to take charge of the morals of "budding manhood and womanhood."

"Whatever duties a man performed he was entitled to fair wages, but the people of N.S.W. were being asked to pay extra tram fares because of the number of motor-cars kept for officials, and the excessive number of these officers."—Mr. Fingleton, Labor member. That may be one reason, but the principal reason for the increases is that as the number of State enterprises grows the burden of interest increases. Under State capitalism this is inevitable, because all such enterprises are started with borrowed

money, and have to carry an increasing horde of human leeches, barnacles, and other parasites.

"Thou shalt not kill." The army and navy are kept for that—so is the henchman.

There is a hole in the bottom of "S.S. Capitalism." Stop praying and get about the rescue steamer, Socialism.

There are eight to ten deaths nightly in New York City among the unemployed and very poor due to exposure and extreme cold. In the same city wealthy ladies lavish thousands on pet dogs.

Where the carcass is there will the crows be. Where the wealth is there will the priests be also. So long as the wage-slaves of Dublin or anywhere else respect priests their servitude is hopeless.

"There has never been a period in the history of New South Wales like the present for substantial prosperity and indisputable progress."—"S.M. Herald." Yet there are thousands of jobless and hungry men and women who get no benefit from such "substantial prosperity."

"The people all the world over will realise, sooner or later, that they are being tricked and bled in the interests of armament makers." Sydney "Sun." Not if the daily press can prevent it.

Politicians in Britain tell male workers that they have a remedy for bad conditions in the vote. They tell the women workers that the vote is no good to them. They might vote for economic freedom.

Deaths by firearms being steadily on the increase, the Government of N.S.W. intends to allow the use of guns, rifles, and revolvers only by persons who take out a license. In the event of one man shooting another we may expect the policeman to walk up to the one with the gun and demand to see his license.

"Sydney Morning Herald" recently drew attention to the wages of slaughtermen, and remarked that there was a danger of the job of slaughtering being rushed owing to the extraordinary wages paid. The slaughtermen, however, do not seem to get such a big share of the profits of the industry as our Reverend contemporary tried to make out; that is, if we may judge by the will of a member of the master class in the trade. The late Mr. W. A. Grubb, wholesale and retail butcher, of George-street, Sydney, left an estate valued at £20,590, a fair sum for one of a body of men who really couldn't pay their man any more and keep out of the bankruptcy court.

There's no place like home, said the Devil when he found himself in a church.

Charity covers a multitude of sins—against the workers.

"A fourth of the Londonerry shirt-makers, when in full employment, do not earn 6/6 a week."—J. J. Mallon. Britain rules the slaves.

Your fetters are forged in Parliament, and on the industrial field they hinder you from kicking. Get busy on your fetters that you may kick more freely.

Beautiful girls are engaged by the British Army authorities to lure young men into the service. There is no limit to the cunning of the parasite class.

A new telescope is to bring the moon within 29 miles of the earth. Arthur Rickard and other land boomers will no doubt be interested in this news.

Archbishop Kelly opened another Catholic building a few days ago in Sydney. It is to be the home of the new Catholic Federation, a political machine of the Church which is being used to squeeze concessions out of politicians. At present assistance to Catholic schools is the objective, but later on, as in other countries, Catholic trade unions and a political party in Parliament will no doubt follow.

Sir James Barr, in opening a tuberculosis exhibition at Preston, England, said that "prisons were the best sanatoria in the kingdom." They are certainly better places than are the homes of many of the workers. Hardly a month passes without some unhappy victim of capitalism asking to be sent to prison to save himself from the slow starvation to which the system condemns him.

Perhaps "honesty is the best policy," but it is impossible under capitalism. Fancy a salesman in a drug shop refusing to recommend an article which he knows is not "just as good" while the boss is within hearing! He would soon take his place in the outer world with the unemployed. Capitalism doesn't give honesty a chance, and every worker knows it.

Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, the new Governor-General, is a man worthy of the highest trust. A cable of April 5 informed us that the last time he attended church in Scotland he was appointed "elder of the plate." Only one of the "uncle good" and "rigidly righteous" ever reaches such a responsible position in Scotland.

Some amusing views by an unconscious humorist.

"I say that it is entirely against Catholic principles for men to speak of war between class and class until one class is extinguished."

Class must help class, and if one class does evil to another, that class must overcome evil with good."

"A man has no right to say to another: 'Give me work.'"

"Pray to God for work, and He will send you work, but you must make your work profitable to your employer."

"A man who would not give a fair day's wages for a fair day's work will stand in awful judgment before God, and I say that a man who will not give a fair day's work for a fair day's wages will also have to stand before God in judgment."—Archbishop Kelly.

The capitalist class, in order to protect property in the means of life, maintains a vast military organisation to prevent any interference on the part of its victims. The members of this organisation are trained solely in the art of human butchery, and it would be indeed strange if such a profession did not engender brutality in the community generally.



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Contributors writing for publication should write in ink, on one side of the paper only, and with a fair space at the sides and between the words and lines. Leave plenty of room for editing.

Write on paper not larger than letter-paper, and thin enough to avoid getting us fined for over-weight.

Mark the package "Press Matter Only," and address it "To the Editor."

Write briefly and clearly, as long and undecipherable articles stand no chance of publication.

Do not send business communications to the Editor, or literary matter to the Manager. To do so only causes confusion and delay.

If your article is not published, do not conclude that it is because it is of no merit, for it may be simply owing to the fact that it is not in accordance with the above rules. Where possible, articles of importance should be type-written.

Man the fatal penchant has to cherish  
Customs that his life no more demand;  
In the deserts of the past we perish,  
Strangled in our race's swaddling bands.

## Premiers' Conference.

"When Mr. Cook, Sir John Forrest, and Mr. Irvine attended, the gathering was extraordinary in its triumphant vindication of democracy. Very few of those present had not risen to be men of power from being men of poverty and manual work. Of two it is said that they sold newspapers in the street. Mr. Cook was a miner, Mr. Irvine an errand boy, Sir John Forrest a hard-handed surveyor, Mr. Holman a French-polisher, Mr. Watt a poor clerk—his brothers earned their living at the age of 12—and Mr. Peake a carpenter. The man of fortune, Mr. Mackinnon, sat comparatively insignificant, a man of magnificent qualities and erudition, but singularly lacking, in such company, in force and action. One might have said, 'Where are the captains of industry, the Philps and Morgans and Services, who used to rule?' They have not got tired of governing. They have been pushed out by the long line of Australians who have risen from poverty to power."

The above is the concluding paragraph of an article by Sydney "Sun's" Melbourne correspondent.

Appearing in the "Sun" the article was unimportant, but when it was reprinted in the "Australian Worker" (9-4-14), the leading organ of the Labor Party, with seeming approval, it becomes interesting and remarkable as a presentation of a peculiar point of view.

The "Worker" usually holds that the present Federal Ministry is tory to the core, and that its leader, Joseph Cook, is a renegade who rattled from the Labor Party, which, according to the "Worker," is the party of true democracy.

This being so, it is peculiar to find that the "Worker" accepted the gathering of States Premiers and Federal Ministers as a "triumphant vindication of democracy." To most other people it looked more like a triumphant vindication of toryism and plutocracy.

That the men who attended the conference had all been men who had once been honest workers doesn't alter the fact that they are at the present time merely the puppets of the enemies of democracy.

The men of fortune, like Mr. Mackinnon, who sat so "insignificant" looking at the conference, and who seemed "singularly lacking, in such company, in force and action," were more significant than the "Worker" seemed to think they were. They sat silent because they were well satisfied with the way their work was being done by those who were once workers. To enter the discussion and attempt to assist in what was being done would only have aroused the suspicions of Laborite journalists whose guiding principle is to watch what Liberals are doing and then to do the opposite.

One who asked, "Where are the captains of industry, the Philps and Morgans and Services, who used to rule?" would have been an unsophisticated greenhorn in the game of political thimblerrig. Most people know that they have been "pushed out"

## Woman's Awakening.

By Olive Schreiner.

As I travelled across an African plain the sun shone down hotly. Then I drew my horse up under a mimosa tree, and I took the saddle from him and left him to feed among the parched bushes. And all to the right and all to the left stretched the brown earth. And I sat down under the tree because the sun beat fiercely, and all along the horizon the air throbbed. And after a while a heavy drowsiness came over me and I laid my head down against my saddle, and I fell asleep there. And, in my sleep, I had a curious dream.

I thought I stood on the border of a great desert, and the sand blew about everywhere. And I thought I saw two great figures like beasts of burden of the desert, and one lay upon the sand with its neck stretched out and one stood by it. And I looked curiously at the one that lay upon the ground, for it had a great burden on its back, and the sand was thick about it so that it seemed to have piled over it for centuries.

And I looked curiously at it. And there stood one beside me watching. And I said to him, "What is this huge creature who lies here on the sand?"

And he said, "This is woman; she that bears men in her body."

And I said, "Why does she lie here motionless with the sand piled around her?"

And he answered, "Listen, I will tell you. Ages and ages long she has lain here and the wind has blown over her. The oldest, oldest, oldest man living has never seen her move; the oldest, oldest book records say that she laid here then, as she lies here now, with the sand about her. But listen, Older than the oldest book, older than the oldest recorded memory of man, on the Rocks of Language, on the hard-baked clay of Ancient Customs, now crumbling to decay, are found the marks of her footsteps. Side by side with his who stands beside her you may trace them and you know that she who now lies there once wandered free over the rocks with him."

And I said, "Why does she lie there now?"

And he said, "I take it, ages ago the Age-of-dominion-of-muscular-force found her, and when she stooped low to give suck to her young, and her back was broad, he put his burden of subjection on it, and tied it on with the broad band of inevitable Necessity. Then she looked at the earth and the sky, and knew there was no hope for her; and she lay down on the sand with the burden she could not loosen. Ever since she has lain there. And the ages have come and the ages have gone, but the band of inevitable Necessity has not been cut."

And I looked and saw in her eyes the terrible patience of the centuries; the ground was wet with her tears, and her nostrils blew up the sand.

And I said, "Has she ever tried to move?"

And he said, "Sometimes a limb has quivered. But she is wise; she knows she cannot rise with the burden on her."

And I said, "Why does not he who stands beside her leave her and go on?"

And he said, "He cannot. Look—"

And I saw a broad band passing along the ground from one to the other, and it bound them together.

He said, "While she lies there he must stand and look across the desert."

And I said, "Does he know why he cannot move?"

And he said, "No."

And I heard a sound of something cracking, and I looked, and I saw the band that bound the burden on to her back broken asunder; and the burden rolled on to the ground.

And I said, "What is this?"

And he said, "The Age-of-muscular-force is dead. The Age-of-nervous-force has killed him with the knife he holds in his hand, and silently and invisibly he has crept up to the woman, and with that

by younger and more vigorous men with more up-to-date methods of exploiting the workers' confidence.

The Philps, the Morgans and Services have retired to enjoy the spoils which they captured in their day. Their work is now being done by the Cooks, Holmans, and Watts, who are much more plausible than their predecessors were. These men will wear their share of workingclass confidence out and will in their turn be cast aside by the workers for those more able to masquerade as democrats. Already the Fishers, and Hugheses are waxing-fat on the confidence of the workers under the cloak of democracy.

knife of Mechanical Invention he has cut the band that bound the burden to her back. The inevitable Necessity is broken. She might rise now."

And I saw that she still lay motionless on the sand, with her eyes open and her neck stretched out. And she seemed to look for something on the far-off border of the desert that never came. And I wondered if she were awake or asleep. And as I looked her body quivered, and a light came into her eyes, like when a sunbeam breaks into a dark room.

I said, "What is it?"

He whispered, "Hush, the thought has come to her! 'Might I not rise?'"

And I looked. And she raised her head from the sand, and I saw the dent where her neck had lain so long. And she looked at the earth, and she looked at the sky, and she looked at him who stood by her; but he looked out across the desert.

And I saw her body quiver; and she pressed her front knees to the earth, and veins stood out; and I cried, "She is going to rise." But only her sides heaved, and she laid still where she was. But her head she held up; and she did not lay it down again. And he beside me said, "She is very weak. See, her legs have been crushed under her so long."

And I saw the creature struggle; and the drops stood out on her. And I said, "Surely he who stands beside her will help her?" And he beside me answered, "He cannot help her; she must help herself. Let her struggle until she is strong."

And I cried, "At least he will not hinder her. See he moves farther from her, and tightens the cord between them, and he drags her down." And he answered, "He does not understand. When she moves she draws the band that binds them, and hurts him, and he moves farther from her. The day when he will understand, and will know what she is doing. Let her once stagger to her knees. In that day he will stand close to her, and look into her eyes with sympathy."

And she stretched her neck, and the drops fell from her. And the creature rose an inch from the earth and sank back.

And I cried, "Oh, she is too weak, she cannot walk. The long years have taken all the strength from her. Can she never move?"

And he answered me, "See the light in her eyes." And slowly the creature staggered on to its knees.

And I awoke.

### THE WAR TRADE.

Hitherto known mainly as a masterly wielder of the French language, a weapon wielded by him against governmental hypocrisies mainly, Anatole France suddenly gave evidence of keener penetration in the speech that he delivered recently before the Socialist organisations of Brussels.

Particularly keen was Anatole France in this passage:

"The governing classes do not really want war, but they do want to keep up a continual menace of war. They want the peril to be always averted, but always present. They do not want the cannon to be fired, but they do want it to be always loaded. Those who perpetually spread abroad rumours and alarms of war only half believe them, or more often do not believe them at all, but they see great advantages to themselves in inducing the people to believe them. You know, comrades, what those advantages are. They are political and financial. A people living under the perpetual menace of war and invasion is very easy to govern. It demands no social reforms. It does not haggle over expenditure on armaments and military equipment. It pays without discussion, it ruins itself, and that is an excellent thing for the syndicates of financiers and manufacturers for whom patriotic terrors are an abundant source of gain."

The edge of Anatole France's blade cuts so deep that one may well expect a furious howl from the elements whom it gashes—and a corresponding shout of joy from the elements whom the gashes enlighten.

It will puzzle many to see how Brisbane "Worker" could have published the foregoing without realising that France's blade gashes the conscriptionist Labor Party of Australia. The Laborite journalist is quick to see how the fellow over the water is victimised and scared by the War Trust and its hired scaremongers, but is quite unable to see how the same gentry work the Japanese bogey on the Labor Party here.

While he plute is on his back  
The worker will not cease to lack.

## The Benighted Heathen.

The following passage from an article entitled, "The China Coast," by J. G. Smith in "Chambers' Journal" of February 2nd should be of interest to some of our White Australian fanatics:—

"There is no such thing as blacklegging when the Chinese go on strike. If there were the blackleg would be killed with as little compunction as we should kill a troublesome fly. Everybody just quietly and unanimously ceases work, and nothing remains for the employer but as graceful a 'cave-in' as possible."

John is always careful to leave a little loophole in this respect, whereby the employer may 'save his face.' Both the Chinese and Japanese have an easy democratic manner of speaking to their boss or employer, which is very pleasant to see. There is absolutely no trace of servility in their manner. I myself have seen a Mongolian horse-dealer chatting, quite freely and frankly, with a Tartar Prince. The employer or boss, on the other hand, is always open to argument, and always acts, or pretends to act, as if he were giving the point his best consideration. This attitude of the employer prevents strikes from reaching the bitterly acute stage, as with us; a stage when the employer knows that he will lose face, in addition to money, and which will give his men an increased confidence in their deadly unionism likely to make trouble for the future. To get along smoothly requires no small amount of tact, especially on British ships where a certain amount of discipline is maintained. In Chinese ships, the sooner a European officer realises that he is only there for his certificate the better; for if he cannot rest content to let the Chinese do as they like he will not keep his position very long."

### Sydney Tram Fares.

The extra halfpenny infliction on the second tramway section was appropriately inaugurated on April Fool's day:

April Fool's day comes at last,  
And the twopenny fare is past.  
See how foreign capitalists rule,  
Labor Government is their tool.  
Now you blanky workers come,  
Laborism's on the bum,  
Another "brown" you've got to pay,  
Just to celebrate the day.  
Fork the blanky shekels out,  
Do not make a fuss or shout,  
Or we'll throw you off the car.  
Who the hell d'you think you are?  
English dividends can't wait.  
Why, you think you own the State!  
Factory girl from Sydney's slum,  
Sadly scans her parting "thrum";  
What the hell does "Labor" care!  
Here you "blankers" pass your fare!

Conundrum for tram conductors.  
"What is the difference between a tramway system run for dividends and one run to pay interest on foreign loans?"  
Answer: "The Labor Party may fool the workers, but they can't fool economic facts."

On Sunday last, April 5th, the new regulation which extorts a double fare for a single section came into force. The result must have been a shock to those faithful servants of the foreign capitalist, the Labor Government, as the cars were rolling along the streets empty, or nearly so. The seaside resorts, Coogee, Bondi, and Bronte, suffered severely, and many of the "petty bourgeois" were wailing the absence of their customers. The Australian workers are a patient lot, but apparently this latest imposition by their own chosen representatives have got their backs up, and they are spontaneously shunning the trams. If they keep on doing so perhaps the ingenuity of those ingenious Labor fellows will devise some other means of raising revenue than by using a State concern to reduce the wages of the working class, for that is what the imposition amounts to.

According to a recent cable in Sydney daily press, the workers of Norway have decided on a general strike as a protest against the introduction of a bill to establish compulsory arbitration. Evidently the workers of Norway are not such fools as their Australian brethren. They cannot as yet put an end of capitalist robbery, but to make a legal bargain with the robbers as to the extent of the robbery is a thing they will not do.

DOMINICUS.

When you have finished with this paper,  
pass it on to a friend.



# A Plea for Solidarity.

By Eugene V. Debs.

Now the industrial organization that ignores or rejects political action is as certain to fail as is the political party that ignores or rejects industrial action. Upon the mutually recognized unity and co-operation of the industrial and political powers of the working class will both the union and the party have to be built if real solidarity is to be achieved.

To deny the political equation is to fly in the face of past experience and invite a repetition of the disruption and disaster which have already wrecked the organized forces of industrialism.

The anti-political unionist and the anti-union Socialist are alike illogical in their reasoning and unscientific in their economics. The one harbors the illusion that the capitalist state can be destroyed and its police powers, court injunctions and galling guns, in short its political institutions, put out of business by letting politics alone, and the other that the industries can be taken over and operated by the workers without being industrially organized and that the Socialist republic can be created by a majority of votes and by political action alone.

It is beyond question, I think, that an overwhelming majority of industrial unionists favor independent political action and that an overwhelming majority of Socialists favor industrial unionism. Now it seems quite clear to me that these forces can and should be united and brought together in harmonious and effective economic and political co-operation.

There is no essential difference between the Chicago and Detroit factions of the I.W.W. except that relating to political action and if I am right in believing that a majority of the rank and file of the Chicago faction favor political action, then there is no reason why this majority should not consolidate with the Detroit faction and thus put an end to the division of these forces. This accomplished, a fresh start for industrial unionism would undoubtedly be made, and with competent organizers to go out into the field among the unorganized, the re-united I.W.W. would grow by leaps and bounds.

The rumblings of revolt in the A.F. of L. prove conclusively that the leaven of industrialism is also doing its work in the trade unions. The miners at their recent Indianapolis convention, in their scathing indictment of Gompers and his ossified "executive council," disclosed their true attitude toward the reactionary and impotent old federation. When Duncan MacDonald declared that Gompers and his official inner circle slaughtered every progressive measure and that the federation under their administration was reactionary to the core and boss-ridden and worse than useless, the indictment was confirmed by a roar of applause.

At the same convention Charles Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, charged that if the strike of the copper miners in Michigan was lost the responsibility would rest upon Gompers and his "executive council." Gompers, notwithstanding this grave charge, left the convention without waiting to face Moyer. He had to catch a train. He remained long enough, however, to solemnly warn the delegates that the two-cent assessment asked for by the W.F. of M. to support the copper strikers would break up his powerful federation.

Almost eighteen years ago the W.F. of M. withdrew from the A.F. of L. in disgust because the financial support (?), it gave to the Leadville strikers did not amount to enough to cover the postage required to mail the appeal to the local unions. To-day, when the W.F. of M. is again fighting for its life, the copper miners are told that a two-cent assessment to keep them and their families from starving would "bust" the Federation.

And this is the mighty American Federation of Labor, boasting a grand army of more than two million organized workers!

What has the A.F. of L., Gompers and his "executive council," done for the desperately struggling miners of Colorado and Michigan? Practically nothing.

Then why should the miners put up their scanty and hard-earned wages to support Gompers and the A.F. of L.?

The boasted power of this Civic Federalized, Militia of Christified body of reactionary craft union apostles of the Brotherhood of Capital and Labor turns to ashes always when the test comes, and a two-cent assessment, according to its national president, would kill it stone dead.

The United Mine Workers and the Western Federation of Miners, becoming more and more revolutionary in the desperate fight they are compelled to wage for their existence, are bound to merge soon into one great industrial organization, and the same forces that are driving them together will also drive them out of Gompers' federation of craft unions. There are other progressive unions in the A.F. of L. that will follow the secession of the miners and augment the forces of revolutionary unionism.

The consolidated miners and the re-united I.W.W. would draw to themselves all the trade unions with industrial tendencies, and thus

would the reactionary federation of craft unions be transformed, from both within and without, into a revolutionary industrial organization.

On the political field there is no longer any valid reason why there should be more than one party. I believe that a majority of both the Socialist party and the Socialist Labor party would vote for consolidation, and I hope to see the initiative taken by the rank and file of both at an early day. The unification of the political forces would tend to clear the atmosphere and promote the unification of the forces on the industrial field.

This article is already longer than I intended, but before closing, I want to say that in my opinion, section six of article two ought to be stricken from the Socialist party's constitution. I have not changed my opinion in regard to sabotage, but I am opposed to restricting free speech under any pretence whatsoever, and quite as decidedly opposed to our party seeking favor in bourgeois eyes by protesting that it does not countenance violence and is not a criminal organization.

I believe our party attitude toward sabotage is right, and this attitude is reflected in its propaganda and need not be enforced by constitutional penalties of expulsion. If there is anything in sabotage we should know it, and free discussion will bring it out; if there is anything in sabotage we should know it, and free discussion will bring it out; if there is nothing in it we need not fear it, and even if it is lawless and hurtful, we are not called upon to penalize it any more than we are theft or any other crime.

The conditions of to-day, the tendency and the outlook are all that the most ardent socialists and industrialists could desire, and if all who believe in a united party backed by a united union and a united union backed, by a united party, will now put aside the prejudices created by past dissensions, sink all petty differences, strike hands in comradely concord, and get to work in real earnest, we shall soon have the foremost proletarian revolutionary movement in the world.

We need not only a new alignment and a better mutual understanding, but we, but we need above all the real socialist spirit, which expresses itself in boundless enthusiasm, energetic action, and the courage to dare and do all things in the service of the cause. We need to be comrades in all the term implies and to help and cheer and strengthen one another in the daily struggle. If the "love of comrades" is but a barren idealism in the socialist movement, then there is no place for it in the heart of mankind.

I appeal to all socialist comrades and all industrial unionists to join in harmonizing the various elements of the revolutionary movement and in establishing the economic and political solidarity of the workers. If this be done a glorious new era will dawn for the working class in the United States.

—International Socialist Review.

## OUR CONSCRIPT SYSTEM.

Scene in Sydney Water Police Court at a trial of a big batch of boy conscripts on 27th March.

On the Bench an irate snob sat showing a supreme contempt for "the brave defenders of our country."

The snob on the Bench, in a loud and angry tone: "Put those rifles down. They might be loaded. I don't know why these rifles have been brought here at all, but in my opinion it is merely a piece of impudence."

The rifles were duly stacked against the wall.

The Snob, angrily: "Who's that one leaning against the wall? Stand up there!"

"That's the sergeant-major in charge of them," replied the lieutenant, acting as prosecuting officer.

The Snob, fawningly: "Oh, I beg your pardon. I didn't recognise you in plain clothes."

One of the boys with a sense of humor, here whistled a bar or two of ragtime in which the beak detected a tone of contempt for snobishness and pompous authority.

"Who's that whistling?" he snarled, "Get hold of him and bring him before the court—if you can catch him."

The whistling ceased. The culprit recognised that the beak would make it warm for any son of the working-class who dared to whistle in his presence. The sergeant-major can loiter against the wall of the court as long as he likes in future—but the boys had better look out for squalls.

Mr. Cann, Labor Minister in New South Wales State Cabinet, and member for Broken Hill, has sorely grieved his miner constituents by refusing to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the frequency of mining accidents on the Hill. Cann is really a Liberal, though for a number of years he has doped the Barrier miners with the idea that he stands for Labor principles. While they are chewing over his refusal to grant a Royal Commission and seeking for excuses for him, they should note his recent statement, published in "S.M. Herald" on April 2, to the effect that he will uphold the law in the event of the farmers coming to Sydney to scab on the wharfies.

# Woman and Socialism.

It is often asserted by our opponents, who never hesitate to stoop to any and every means to divert the attention of the working class from their only path to emancipation, that Socialism would inevitably lead to community of wives; in fact, one anti-Socialist went so far as to declare that "it would lead to universal prostitution." It is doubtful whether this is the honest opinion of these critics, or written against their opinions simply to

## Shock the Morality

of the people in an endeavour to prejudice them against Socialism. It may be that these superficial observers, having heard of the community of wives or group marriage under primitive communism, honestly believe that, as Socialism is the common ownership of the means of life, it will necessarily result in community of wives.

Of course, the intelligence of these would-be critics has not risen above the old conception of the inherent inferiority of women, believing that they exist simply to satisfy the desires of men. That women will some day be on an equality with men is beyond their comprehension, and doubtless against the wish of those who to-day are able to take advantage of women's economic inferiority.

That the sexual relationship will change with the metamorphosis of the economic basis of society no Socialist will deny, or any keen student of ancient history seriously dispute, for a study of ancient society and the corresponding forms of society still in existence, shows conclusively that the sexual relations have followed the different stages of economic development.

Let us glance at two or three of the most salient forms of sexual co-habitation. The history of these forms is not merely a chronology of different marriage systems that evolve out of preceding forms, and the development of which would remain inexplicable but for the fact that a close analysis of a very remote system

## Gave us the Key

to the solution of this all-important problem.

The now universally accepted theory of the descent of mankind from the anthropoid apes leads to the conclusion that promiscuous sexual intercourse would have been practised by the human race in its earliest stage, although it is possible that mankind brought with it from our anthropoid ancestors a recognised form of sexual relationship; and again, no strict line of demarcation could have been drawn between these two species of animals. But according to Prof. L. H. Morgan ("Ancient Society") there exists a community of people who still practise a form of sexual co-habitation very remote from that arrived at in highly developed countries at the present time.

Among the Kamilaroi of Australia there exists, or did until recently, a very primitive form of group marriage, under which a group of men and a group of women are husbands and wives. No man, therefore, can say "This is my wife," but could only refer to the whole group of women as "our wives," and the converse is true of the women. Although this is a very low form of sexual relationship, it is a great advance on promiscuity, for it is so organised as to preclude the intermarriage of

## Brothers and Sisters.

While it is not intended to give the history of even the most prominent forms of sexual co-habitation that have evolved, yet as the system practised by the Kamilaroi forms the basis from which the higher systems have evolved, we will outline its salient features.

These people are divided into eight groups—four male and four female—which we will number from 1 to 8, using the odd numbers to denote the male and the even numbers the female groups.

All the members of groups 1 and 8 are husbands and wives, and their progeny belong, not to the group of the mothers or fathers, but to groups 5 and 6. The men of 3 and the women of 6 are also husbands and wives in common, and their offspring belong to 7 and 8. The children of 5 and 4 belong to 1 and 2, and those of 7 and 2 to 3 and 4. Although we call this form group marriage, they are not necessarily clustered together, but geographically distributed as their means of gaining a livelihood dictate. But wherever they meet they greet each other as husband and wife.

It will be seen that the system precludes the intermarriage of brothers and sisters.

Under any form of group marriage it

was impossible for any man to say with any degree of certainty "this is my child." The nearest approach to this would have been "these are our children." The laws of inheritance of modern society would have been unintelligible under such a system. In the early days of the gens we find descent is in the female line, all the members of the gens assuming descent from a common female ancestor. But later descent is transferred to the male line—not any individual father, but to the gens or group of the father.

We have later the syndyasmian or pairing family. Here the co-habitation of one man and one woman was continued only during the pleasure of both.

The establishment of the monogamian system was due to the

## Development of Private Property.

It has its roots in chattel slavery. The very word "family" is derived from the Latin word "fam," meaning a slave. Under this system the definite parentage of the child was ascertainable. But this system brought with it the further degradation of women, for while under the group form of marriage the woman was dependent upon no particular man for existence, for property was held in common, the reverse was the case under Monogamy.

In the incipient stages of the monogamian system the patriarch of Rome had power of life and death over his wife and children (O sacred rights of private property!), and Lecky tells us in his "History of European Morals" that: "The child was indeed the absolute slave of his father, who had a right at any time to take away his life and dispose of his entire property. He could look to no time during the life of his father in which he would be freed from thralldom; the man of fifty, the consul, the general, or the tribune was, in this respect, in the same position as the infant, and might at any moment be deprived of all the earnings of his labour, driven to the most menial employments, or even put to death by the paternal command." And this is the system in which our boasted form of the family has its origin!

But monogamy at this period of history belonged almost exclusively to the

## Propertied Class.

and among men only nominally, whilst among the slaves (who formed the vast bulk of the population) there was no legal form of marriage. Monogamy, therefore, was confined to a small minority of the people.

The wives of the patriarchs had more liberty than wives in Greece. The latter led a life of seclusion, rarely coming into contact with men, excluded even from their husbands' tables when they were entertaining friends. They spent their time in domestic work, and had the intellectual development of children. What a contrast to the "free" women of the same country, who have been held up as the ideal of female intellectual and physical development! But these were women who, seen through Christian spectacles, were the most immoral women on earth.

It must not be imagined that this is an exhaustive survey of even the most notable features in the evolution of the sexual relationship. But it is sufficient to show that the present monogamian marriage is but a development from other forms.

Each transformation is due, as with all other social institutions, to the changing economic conditions, while the present form arises out of individual private property.

While the working class are to-day dependent upon the capitalist class for their livelihood, the woman of this class have to depend to a large extent

## Upon the Men

for their living. Though many women are now engaged in production, it is obvious that the vast majority must be child-bearers if the human race is to continue. Where women are employed it is chiefly before marriage, although there are thousands who have to slave in factories when they should be nursing the rising generation.

The prohibition of legal marriage among the poor, with a view to restricting the population, has often been suggested as a remedy for poverty. But the adoption of this suggestion in Munich resulted in 50 per cent. of the births in that city being illegitimate. (Spencer Essays.)

(To be Continued.)

The important thing in this life is not so much to know a thing as to know it thoroughly.

—HUXLEY.



## Topical Tattle.

Permission to indenture black girls as servants has been refused certain Darwin residents. "Indenture" smells more like "legally enslave" than anything else, for it's quite probable the aboriginal Mary Anns would get little, if any, wages.

The "Herald," speaking of the high price of meat, says: "If meat is dear, poultry is cheap," and quotes the price of old hens at 3/6, Muscovy ducks 3/, and English ducks at 2/6 per pair. In the name of Fortune, if the average wage-earner cannot afford 6d per lb. for solid meat, how can he afford the above prices for a few mouthfuls of poultry?

The dear Wowsers are apparently much concerned over the secularisation of the Sabbath; yet it is the only day on which many of them make any attempt at work. How long are the faithful going to support these loafers?

The labourer is worthy of his hire, but it seems he is not worthy of it at the State Timber Yard, where he is reputed to receive the princely weekly wage of 46/.

"Every man shall bear his own burden" runs the old maxim. Unfortunately, many men are thrice burdened; but the day is coming when the burdens will be more evenly distributed.

Land sales are popularised nowadays by giving presents, refreshments, music, etc. But after the feast comes the reckoning, for it is safe to assume that the vendors do not provide these extras for the pure love of the thing.

The Government are playing the boy and the nits act over again with their numerous State enterprises. Why not grasp and maintain a few firmly for a start. Some are sure to be squeezed out of the clutch in the long run.

The "Herald," referring to the great Siramilton, says: "The very mention of his campaigns, or a glimpse of his war medals is enough to thrill the hero-worshipping Briton." Likewise, the mention of a Boer subduer's night maraudings, or the glimpse of his wooden leg, glass eye, or maimed arm thrills the average Australian—but not with pride. No fear!

Two heads can't be better than one, or young folks would never get married.

Two rich Australians took single tickets for Angel Land last week. They left their fortunes behind—but none thereof for charity.

"When friends meet hearts warm"; and if the day is warm pints are consumed—provided one of their names don't commence with "Mc," or the other end with "stein."

It is mooted that the various shire councils are to have increased powers. Some of these tin-pot councils assume too much already; and if greater powers are granted them their already over-swelled heads will be unable to stand the strain.

It has been decided that no more free wooden legs, arms, etc., are to be provided for any employee named whilst in the Railway Department's service. Shades of parsimony! Shunters, don't try to stop a train with your leg, for you'll have to buy your own cork one if you lose one of those you have!

"Poverty is the mother of crimes," saith the old saw. And Fat is the father of them.

It is generally the willing horse that gets spurred the most.

F. M.

## THE BIRTH STRIKE.

I was glad to read "Ajax" on "The Birth Strike," and agree with his opinions, re the necessity of working class women understanding the significance of the suggestions on this most important matter.

Strange as it may seem several members of the particular branch of the A.S.P. to which I belong, disagree entirely with me, Ajax, and others, notably Mary Marcy, that a birth strike amongst working class women would effect economic conditions and give the capitalist class such a shaking up, as a dozen or more well organised international industrial strikes would fail to do.

It is well known that women of the capitalist class throughout the world are adopting the policy of the empty cradle. If the majority provide an heir for their husband's possessions these women consider their duty done.

Working class women need a great deal of education on this matter, and many of them admit (as the mother of eight did to me, recently) that a large family under present economic conditions is a calamity.

I often wonder what lay at the back of Fisher's mind when he fathered the Baby Bonus Bill. Did he believe, as the churches

## A.S.P. News & Notes.

### AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.  
General Secretary: J. W. ROCHE.  
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.  
LUKE JONES, Act. Gen. Sec.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on April 18, when all delegates are urged to attend.

LUKE JONES, Acting General Sec.

### MELBOURNE BRANCH A.S.P.

During the last fortnight splendid propaganda meetings have been held at Port Melbourne and the Yarra Bank, and it is with pleasure the fact is recorded that the attendance at same boasts a substantial increase. The literature sales have also been particularly good, and is continued will have a decidedly good influence.

Sunday evening meetings have also been successful, and a special effort is being made at present, and make them equally more so. As a result dodgeres advertising speakers, under our auspices are being delivered judiciously by comrades in many parts of the city. It is hoped the results will be encouraging.

A welcome visitor at the Branch rooms of late was comrade Rose, of Brisbane, who has taken a prominent part in Brisbane free speech fight. Comrade Trot, has also returned to Melbourne, and has again taken his place on the platform.

Comrades will all be sorry to learn that at the moment of writing, Comrade M. Lazarus is at present in Melbourne Hospital, having met with a serious accident. All who know him will, I feel sure, join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

The following is a list of speakers and their subjects, for Sundays April 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, and May 3rd. Mayor Page. An Atheist's view of Christ: Mrs. McDonald. Easter, its Significance; Mr. Finberg. Socialism—Does it spell Freedom or Despotism; Mrs. Laveneder. M.A. Should Wives Obey; J. R. Wilson, From Savagery to the Socialist Commonwealth.

Comrades make it your business to attend, and also make it your business to invite your workmates, and friends to do likewise.

J. R. WILSON, Secretary.

### BROKEN HILL.

J. Scaddan, Fakir-in-Chief of the W.A. Labor Party, told a gathering of local slaves in the Central Park on a recent evening a few remarkable truths and a lot of damn lies. Said he: The Australian Labour parties had never gone back on their policies. (Hear, hear.) W.A.L.P. did not want to abolish profit altogether, but only wanted a fair deal for the workers. (Cheers.) So for the sum of £300 upward they were building houses for the workers on the time-payment system. In these houses they built a bath and a pantry, even placing shelves in the pantry. (Loud cheers.) The folly and one-sided logic of putting shelves in a pantry when there is no guarantee of

teach that "the Lord will provide" for the unfortunate children so recklessly brought into the world by careless parents?

Science, the twin Saviour with Socialism—of the working class—has come to the rescue of proletarian women. That they have large and unwanted families is entirely their own fault. It is said that when Bradlaugh and Mrs. Besant published their Malthusian pamphlet a generation ago, that hundreds of women, including many parsons' wives (who have large families as a rule), wrote letters of gratitude to Mrs. Besant for the commonsense advice and suggestions in that pamphlet.

Under present economic conditions the working class women, with large families, are merely assisting to crowd the labour market, and to provide material for the armies and navies necessary for the protection of capitalist interests and property; and for the means of extending these villainous schemes of the armament trust all over the world.

A man in England was recently prosecuted and gaoled for Freethought speech in a public place. A petition for his release from gaol was refused by the authorities on the ground that his "offence" was further aggravated by his wife selling "preventatives" amongst the crowd listening to him speaking.

The capitalists' ally, the Church, and particularly the R.C., is so opposed to the limitation of population that Socialists naturally suspect the Church is fully aware of the great significance attached to a universal birth strike, and its direful effects on capitalism.

JAYEM.

anything to put on the pantry shelves does not worry Scaddan, and the crowd did not trouble, but went home to bed quite pleased to awake next morning and read in the paper that the W.A. Labor Government had fined the Geraldton workers for going on strike. The Labor Party policemen and Labor-made military officers have been kept permanently employed arresting military defaulters for this last month or so. A large number of the local youth who have failed to qualify and become competent as wholesale butchers of humanity have been awakened of a morning by a policeman, or commanded by a military officer at any hour of the day to put on his coat and quit his job for the military detention camp eighteen miles away. Out of the first batch of 50 so despatched it is reported 20 walked back again the first night, defying the local authorities. These latter recently thanked the local employers for the sacrifices they were making in relinquishing the temporary use of their human machines in gratifying the wishes of the "Military Moloch." But there is never a word of thanks to the parents and homes dependent upon the youth's scant earnings. The military authorities possibly recognise in the gradually growing number of malingerers the people's answer of silent ridicule and disdain at any proffered apology or thanks from the swashbuckling crew. The Silverton Tramway Company, which owns the 30 miles of railway between here and the S.A. border, let out a little interesting information in its recent negotiations for a supply of water from South Australia in the event of the exhaustion of their own reservoir. The local water supplied to the people of Broken Hill is much too severe for the tramway company's engines, as it corrodes and rots them internally. Which, of course, proves that a very big percentage of the local slave army have much thicker skins than is generally supposed. In fact, they must be solid right through, seeing that they can exist and produce profits for the boss upon the water that renders useless the steel machines of capitalism.

Lectures of late have shown an increased attendance. Comrade (Mrs.) A. K. Wallace's fine lucid oration upon "War: What For?" being delivered to a packed audience. Likewise Comrade (Mr.) A. K. Wallace's graphic portrayal of the incidents, cause, and subsequent failure of the "Paris Commune." Comrade T. Hytten's discourse on "A Rational System of Education" was well received without criticism. H. S. Wood is booked for next Sunday, April 5th. Subject: "Marx: His Life and Doctrine." Literature Secretary Bannister reports increased sales and demand for literature at all meetings.

H. SPENCER WOOD.

### BRISBANE.

A good crowd assembled in Market-square on Saturday night to hear the various speakers deal with the question of "Free Speech." Dave Bowman, M.L.A., moved the first resolution, which ran:—

"That this meeting of Brisbane citizens emphatically protests against the gross discrimination exercised by the authorities towards secular bodies in not allowing them to hold street meetings on Sundays, and demands the immediate restitution of the right of free expression to all, irrespective of creed or political persuasion."

Hildreth, of the Amalgamated Engineers, seconded, and I supported it. The resolution was carried unanimously.

M. Dwyer, president of Carpenters' Union, moved:

"That this meeting of Brisbane citizens demands the immediate release of George Campbell Thompson, who is at present confined in the Goodna Hospital for Insane, on the ground that he is a sane and normal person; and further condemns the undemocratic action of the Acting Premier of Queensland (Hon. W. H. Barnes) in sending him to Goodna without proper investigation."

P. Mandeno (Carpenters' Union) seconded, and J. Quinton (Waterside Workers) supported. This also was unanimously carried.

Just before the closing of the meeting W. Wright (secretary Progressive Carpenters' Union) moved, and J. Lough (A.W.U.) seconded: "That a committee be formed to receive the replies from the authorities to the protests made, and if unfavorable, to carry on the agitation until freedom of speech is won." Copies of the resolutions have been sent to Acting-Premier Barnes, Home Secretary Appel, J. Cook, Prime Minister, Andy Fisher, and local English, and American press.

During the meeting a letter was read

by T. Foot, the chairman, from the Metropolitan Labor Speakers' Association, placing on record its disapproval of the "permit" system. The spirit shown at the meeting was good, and augurs well for militant and combined action in the near future.

A number of friends and comrades visited Thompson the other day. He was delighted to see them. They told him of the demonstration, and he expressed his pleasure to hear of the efforts made for his release.

Roche, Williams, and Perry were released from Bogga Road Jail at 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning, April 8. All three are fit and well. Roche will be in Sydney shortly laden with facts about the life passed as one of His Majesty's guests. He sends greetings in advance to all comrades who kindly remembered him in jail and who sent him cards and letters.

**BRISBANE FREE SPEECH FUND.**  
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From Sydney ..... 0 5 0  
From Sydney ..... 0 5 0

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April 4th demonstration col... 2 4 9

£81 11 9

Brisbane Branch has issued a photograph of a group of the Comrades who have suffered imprisonment in connection with the Free Speech Fight. The cards may be obtained from Gordon Brown, Box 10, P.O. South Brisbane. Price 2s. 6d. Sold in aid of the Free Speech Fund.

Yours, GORDON BROWN,  
Organising Sec.

### NEWTOWN.

On Saturday and Sunday nights, March 28 and 29, the branch held the usual weekly propaganda meetings at Newtown bridge. Comrade McCormack, Jackson, Slade, Kotton were the speakers at Saturday's meeting, and on Sunday night Comrades McCormack, Jackson, Page, and Kotton delivered addresses to a fair audience.

On Friday, April 3, several comrades visited Johnston Street Annexe, and held a very successful meeting. Comrades McCormack, Page, Kotton, and Jackson were the speakers. The audience was fairly large and on the whole very attentive which indicates that the wage slaves of that district are waking up. It will not be long before there is a good fighting band of Socialists here.

W. J. PAGE, Secretary.

### BALMAIN.

Good meetings continue to be held by our speakers, and the branch is steadily forging ahead. The new Rooms at 51 Beattie-St. are open. The Paris Commune was celebrated on the 19th—a day late owing to unavoidable circumstances.

A Social and Dance will be held at the Oddfellows' Hall, Darling Street, Balmain, on Sat., April 18. Tickets 1s. 6d. Ladies Complimentary. Dancing from 8 till 12.  
L. FENWICK, Sec.

### PRESS AND MAINTENANCE FUND.

Previously acknowledged £55 8s. 6d.  
Joe Braun, S. A., 2s.; Cornstalk, 3s.; J. McNamara, 1s.; "Enthusiast," S.A. 1s. Total, £56 1s. 6d.

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